

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present Amendment, claims 6-9, 11, 21-25, 27 and 31-37 are all the claims pending in the application.

Dealing with preliminary matters first, Applicant requests the Examiner to initial and return the SB/08 Forms submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) of August 17, 2006 and the IDS filed concurrently with the present Amendment.

To summarize the Office Action, Claims 12-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Nagashima *et al.* (USP 5,963,521). Claims 6-9, 11, 21-25, 27 and 31-37 are allowed.

Claims 12-14 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer in order to advance the prosecution of the present application. Thus, since the outstanding grounds of rejection are rendered moot and only allowed claims remain in the application, it is respectfully requested that allowed Claims 6-9, 11, 21-25, 27 and 31-37 be passed to issue forthwith.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
USSN 09/715,009

Group Art Unit 2627
Attorney Docket Q61858
Confirmation No. 7924

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

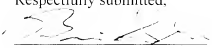
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Respectfully submitted,



Brian K. Shelton
Registration No. 50,245

Date: **October 19, 2006**